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P R O P O S A L S
FOR PRINTING BY SUBSCRIPTION,
VOYAGES AND TRAVELS
IN
AFRICA AND THE WEST-INDIES,

From the Year 1771, to the Year 1779 inclusive.

By HENRY SMEATHMAN.

C O N D I T I O N S.

- I. This Work will be printed in Two Volumes Quarto, on the same Size, Letter, and Paper, with Captain Cook's and other late Voyages round the World; with Copper-plates, illustrating the Manners and Customs of the Inhabitants, and the NATURAL HISTORY of those Countries.
- II. The Price will be Two GUINEAS, to be paid on Delivery of the Book sewed; or ONE GUINEA to be paid on Subscribing, and the Remainder on the Delivery of the Book, as may be most agreeable to the Subscribers, whose Names and Residence will be printed.
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To the P U B L I C.

THE present age is not more distinguished by the great discoveries which have resulted from a spirit of enquiry after useful knowledge, than for the liberal encouragement which has been given to it, not only by the Sovereigns of Europe, particularly his present Majesty, but even by many private Gentlemen: infomuch that in no period of time have the bounds of Science been so much extended as in this century.

The relations of some late voyages which have been made, in consequence of such encouragements, under Royal patronage, or by Gentlemen already high in the public esteem, and illustrious for their talents, have so much excited the attention of mankind, as to create a hope in the Writer of this Work, that the novelty and extent of the information, as well as the entertainment it offers, will render it deserving the patronage and encouragement of the Public.

The Continent of Africa and its Productions are little known to Europeans, and have long been objects of curiosity to philosophical Gentlemen; some few of whom, exceedingly zealous in promoting all kinds of useful knowledge, and in particular of Natural History, suggested this adventure, and enabled the Author to embark with the necessary apparatus for making collections and observations in those countries, where he resided near eight years, promoting, as far as circumstances would permit, the chief object of his Travels.

In



In this Work will be contained a narrative of Voyages and Excursions made up some of the large rivers on the Continent of Africa, and to several Islands on that Coast and the Coast of America.

Also an account of the Present State of the Empire of Sherbro or Serbera in Guinea, and of those little known and much misrepresented people the Negroes, who dwell in or near the large district of that Continent called, from the Mountains and River of that name, Sierra Leona; their Manners, Customs, Laws, Policy, Agriculture, Arts, Manufactures and Commerce; among which will be related many interesting Descriptions of their Way of Life, Diet, Dresses and Ornaments; Ceremonies, Sports, and Amusements; National, Provincial and lesser Conventions, Assemblies and Courts of Justice; Modes of Trial in Civil and Criminal Cases (particularly the Ordeal of Red Water); their Punishments, &c. also Descriptions of their Kings, Chiefs, Courts, Ambassadors and Embassies; Priests, Orators, and Lawyers. An account of their ancient, religious, and political mystery of the Porro; their Sacred Groves, Burying-Places, Gri-Gri Houses, and other Buildings; together with Observations on the Diseases of those Countries, and the different modes of treatment practised by Natives and Europeans, with accounts of some of the Remedies used by the former; and also on the Climate and the Seasons; with an account of the dreadful Thunder-storms called Tornadoes, the singular Winds known by the name of Harmattans, and the effects they have upon animals, vegetables, furniture, &c. the variations of the Thermometer at those times particularly, and other meteorological phenomena.

The

The Slave Trade merits to be fully treated of, and will here be amply described; an accurate account will be given of the manner of carrying it on, of keeping and securing the Slaves, of transporting them to the West Indies, and of selling them there; together with the treatment they meet from Europeans and other White people in those Islands; a comparison of the Negroes in a state of freedom or of slavery, and the different management of Slaves by nations and individuals.

The whole will be interspersed with a Natural History of the most remarkable productions of those climates, observed by the Author, and which have not been described or treated of fully by other travellers; together with descriptions of their Mountains, Volcanoes, and Rivers; the Climates, general Appearances of the Country, Soils, &c.

In the latter part, a short account will be given of the Present State of the Windward Sugar Islands in the West Indies; their government, cultivation, &c. with an historical enquiry into the nature of the Calamity in those Colonies which ruined so many Sugar Estates, generally attributed to a small species of Ants called Cane Ants; and some Observations on the customs, manners, and policy of the West Indians, whether Creoles or Emigrants; British, American, French, Dutch, or African.

RECEIVED of *W. B. Borring Esq^r*
the Sum of *two Guineas* being the ^{whole} ~~first~~ Payment for
one Copy of Voyages and Travels by HENRY SMEATHMAN,
which I promise to deliver according to the above Proposals.

Henry Smethman



